

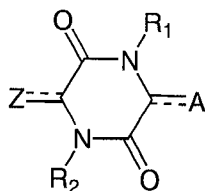
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A compound having the formula:



wherein

~~each of --- and --- , independently, is a single bond or a double bond;~~

~~A is H or $\text{CH}(\text{R}^{\text{a}}\text{R}^{\text{b}})$ when --- is a single bond, or $\text{C}(\text{R}^{\text{a}}\text{R}^{\text{b}})$ when --- is a double bond;~~

~~Z is $\text{R}_3\text{O}-(\text{Ar})-\text{C}(\text{R}^{\text{c}})$ when --- is a double bond; in which Ar is pyridyl linked to C at position 2; and R_3 is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl substituted with aryl, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{\text{f}}$, or $\text{S}(\text{O})\text{R}^{\text{f}}$;~~

~~each of R_1 and R_2 , independently, is H or $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{\text{g}}$;~~

~~R^{a} is H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ cycloalkyl, or $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ heterocycloalkyl; R^{b} is H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, or aryl; or R^{a} and R^{b} taken together are $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; or R_1 and R^{a} or R_1 and R^{b} taken together are $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;~~

~~$\text{R}^{\text{a}'}$ is benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl; and $\text{R}^{\text{b}'}$ is H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, or aryl; or $\text{R}^{\text{a}'}$ and $\text{R}^{\text{b}'}$ taken together are $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; or R_1 and $\text{R}^{\text{a}'}$ or R_1 and $\text{R}^{\text{b}'}$ taken together are $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;~~

~~each of R^{c} and R^{f} , independently, is H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, aryl, or arylamino; and~~

~~R^{g} is H, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, or aryl.~~

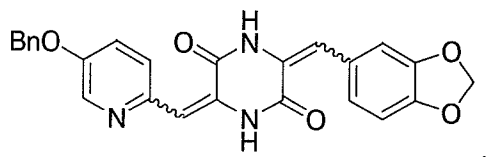
15-17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) The compound of claim [[16]] 14, wherein R^{b'} is H.

19. (Original) The compound of claim 18, wherein R_e is H.

20. (Original) The compound of claim 19, wherein R₃ is benzyl.

21. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 20, wherein the compound is



22-30. (Cancelled)